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*Sir John Colbatch's*  
**S C H E M E.**

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# S C H E M E

F O R

Proper Methods to be taken,  
should it please G O D to  
visit us with the

# P L A G U E.

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By Sir JOHN COLBATCH,  
A Member of the College of Phy-  
sicians.

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# THE PREFACE.



ROM the first time that I heard of the Plague's raging in France, and the terrible Havock it made there, for want, as I thought, of proper Regulations; my Mind has frequently been employed how to form a Scheme which might be liable but to few Inconveniencies, should the Providence

vidence of God permit such a Calamity to befall us in this Nation.

THROUGH the Mercy of God this City has for the whole Summer past, been in as perfect a State of Health, as ever it was known to be in the Memory of the oldest Person living; and therefore it never enter'd into my Head to commit my Thoughts to Writing.

BUT lately hearing of the Zealous and Well-meaning Steps taken by others, which did not agree with my Sentiments, I have presum'd to publish the following SCHEME; which, if pursued and concluded upon in due time, which it may easily be, will preserve us from Confusion, should we be attack'd, which God forbid.

I WAS educated in Principles which taught me to prefer the Welfare of my Country before any other Thing; which Principles I have stedily pursued through every Stage of Life, and upon some Occasions

Occasions not without great Hazard and Detriment to my self.

WE have a Good and Gracious King upon the Throne, who I am sure means our Welfare: His Privy Council, in the Absence of Parliament, 'tis very plain, have acted with great Vigilance, to prevent the dreadful Calamities with which we are threatned.

THE two Houses of Parliament are just upon the Point of Meeting. To his most Gracious Majesty, his vigilant Council, and to Them, do I presume to offer the following SCHEME; which may probably have the good Fortune, at least, to afford such Hints as may redound to the Benefit of the Publick.

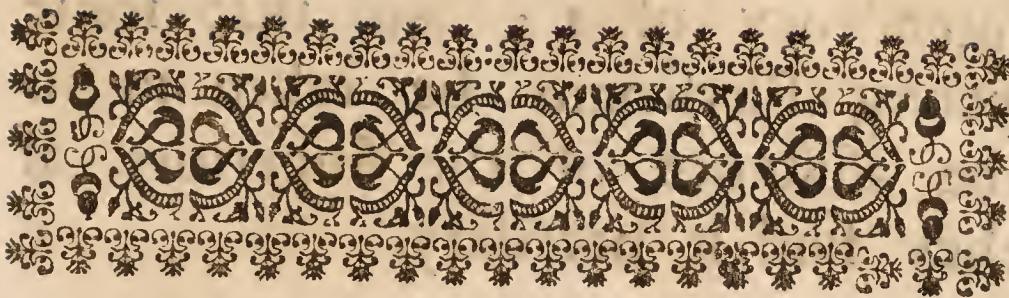
MY principal Aim is, that People may not be frightened and confounded, when every thing is well with us; and that we may not be in a Hurry and Distraction, should the destroying Angel unsheathe

sheathe his Sword, and threaten us with  
Destruction.

AS Men, let us act with Prudence ;  
and as Christians, let us put our Trust  
in the Living God, through Jesus Christ  
our Lord. Amen.

Octob. 16. 1721.





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# S C H E M E

For proper Methods to be  
taken, should it please  
GOD to visit us with the  
PLAQUE.



THAT the Citys of *London*  
and *Westminster* be divided  
into distinct Districts.

II.

THAT in each District there  
be one or more Physicians to have  
B the

the immediate Care and Superintendency of it; and that some young Physicians be taken in to the assistance of the Superiors, if they find it necessary.

### III.

THAT the District appointed to each Physician, may be as near his own Habitation as possible; and that the Surgeons and the Apothecarys be within the Limits of it.

### IV.

THAT there be six Surgeons, and six Apothecarys in each, to be chosen by the Physician or Physicians of the District, and to be under their immediate Direction.

### V.

THAT such Medicines as shall be thought necessary, be immediately

diately prepared, and a convenient Room or Rooms taken for that use.

## VI.

THAT Women for Nurses and other uses be had in readiness.

## VII.

THAT a Clerk and an Assistant or two, be appointed to receive and issue out Money, and to keep the Accounts.

## VIII.

THAT the Physicians of each District do pitch on a Piece of Ground to erect an Infirmary upon, should there be occasion for any; and that the Owners of such Ground be obliged to part with it, by Act of Parliament, for so long time as it shall be wanted, for a valuable Consideration.

## IX.

THAT a Proveditore be appointed for each Infirmary, to provide Beds, Blankets, Linen, Food and other Necessarys, and to have proper Assistants both Men and Women.

## X.

IF the number of the Sick be few, the number of Surgeons and Apothecarys may be fewer than are mention'd: If they are numerous, they must be encreased. But be that as it will, none to be paid, but according to the number of Days they are employed, and their Allowance to be settled by a Committee of the College, with the Lords of his Majesty's Treasury.

## XI.

## XI.

THAT twelve Men of the Militia in Arms, pick'd out by the Officers, be posted in some convenient Place in each respective District, either to assist the Civil Magistrate, or to be aiding to the Physicians, Surgeons or Apothecarys, upon occasion, to prevent Disturbances.

## XII.

As the number of working People of all sorts, that will at once be thrown out of Employment, is inconceiveable; and as these People, for the most part, living but from Hand to Mouth, Care ought to be taken of them by the Civil Magistrate; It will also be necessary for all the regular Troops to be quarter'd at a near distance, to march into the Town upon occasion, to prevent the

the utter Destruction of it, should the Multitude grow ungovernable.

### XIII.

WHEN Infirmaries are erected, that none be sent there but the Miserable and Indigent, who are not able to provide Necessaries for themselves.

### XIV.

THAT Families of Substance, who have Servants, and all Convenience for Cleanliness and every thing else, be left in their own Houses, and even those not shut up, only a Mark to be set upon them: But that it shall be Death for any Well Person to come out of such House without a white Wand in his Hand, to warn all People that he belongs to an Infected Family. And those that recover of the Disease, not to associate themselves with

with other People till after a regular Quarantine.

## XV.

THE Burial of the Dead to be left to the Discretion of the Civil Magistrate and the Parish Officers ; and that the Place of Burial for all sorts of People be at some convenient Distance from the Infirmary.

## XVI.

I WILL chearfully engage in the Care of all the Poor in the Old Parish of St. Martin's ; I mean, that part which excludes *Hannover-Square*, and the remote ones. I don't doubt but the rest of the Physicians of the Parish will readily join with me in so compassionate a Work ; and, I believe, there is not above one Parish, within the compass of the Bills of Mortality, that hath so numerous a Poor as we have.

## XVII.

## XVII.

THE Medicines laid into the Repository, to be only made use of in the Infirmarys, or amongst other poor Families.

## XVIII.

THAT each Infirmary have a Guard of Militia at some Distance from it ; the Army Hospitals having always a Guard, which not only prevent Disorders, but upon many Occasions are otherwise of great use, viz. to secure the Stores of Provision of all sorts that are necessary to be kept before hand in Readiness.

## XIX.

THAT no Physician be so far restrain'd to the Limits of his own District, but that he may have Liberty of visiting People in other Places

Places whenever he is sent for; and that Surgeons and Apothecarys may also do the same.

**XX.**

THAT there be a General Inspector of every District, and proper Assistants, with Cover'd Carts in Pay, to carry sick People to the Infirmary, as there shall be occasion.

**XXI.**

IF these things are regularly taken care of, and settled in time, should we be visited, which God forbid, all Confusion will be avoided, every one will know the Station assign'd him, and what he has to do; and the Government need not be at any present Charge, but in the preparing and laying up a Stock of Medicines in the Repository.

## XXII.

THIS SCHEME in most Particulars will serve for every other City and Town, as well as London and Westminster.

I COULD have very much enlarged upon each of the foregoing Heads; but designing them only as Hints, I thought the shorter they were, the better. However, if I am called upon farther to explain my self, I am fully prepared to do it.

SHOULD Barracks be immediately built, it would at once be generally thought that the PLAGUE was already amongst us; and every common Fever, tho innocent in its own nature, by the Distress Peoples Minds would be brought to, will go near to become mortal; and by that means Multitudes will fly from the Town, as if it were really infected,

fected, and so occasion greater Confusions and Distractions in the Nation, than it already labours under, which God knows need not be.

UPON the first certain Notice of Infection, a vast number of Carpenters and Joyners will be discharged from Work, and Deals and other Timber will lie upon the Merchants Hands; so that at a much cheaper Rate than now, Barracks as many, or more than can be wanting, may be built in a very little time, provided the Ground upon which they are to be built, be before-hand pitch'd upon: which ought to be as near every District as is consistent with Safety to the Town.

TO conclude, let those in Power, whom God direct, but seriously consider, that should People in the Country be kept from coming to Town, and those now

in it by unnecessary, tho' most zealous, and honest Precautions, be driven out of it, what a damp it would put upon Trade, and of course make multitudes of Families miserable. Should a few People be taken ill, Tents may be pitch'd for them till Barracks can be built; and they may be had in readiness at a small Expence, without alarming any one, and may be lodg'd in the Repository for Medicines, as may a few Beds, and the things belonging to them. This may be done in every District.

I CANNOT help adding the following Observation, viz. That the publick Fast was observ'd in the most awful, solemn and serious manner by all sorts of People; and that the excellent weekly Prayers seem to be offer'd up with the utmost Fervour: Let us but generally resolve to break off from our Sins by unfeigned Repentance, and

and I hope we shall not be visited with the Calamity. We have not been guilty of Massacres, nor persecuted innocent Souls ; but have been at inexpressible Expence of Blood and Treasure to preserve the common and just Liberties of Mankind. I do not mention these things as an Argument of Merit, but to encourage People to hope for Mercy, if they seek it in a right manner.

*F I N I S.*





